

Bork, William

1927

[Prescott, AZ]

111 South Mount Vernon Street,

Prescott, Arizona,

August 17, 1927.

The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway and 156th. Street,
New York City, New York.

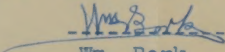
Dear Sirs:

I have been referred to you by Gutttag Bros. of 16-18 Exchange Place, your city. I wrote to them a few days ago asking for information as to the subjects, monetary values and countries or kings issuing the coins which are pictured on various postage stamps of Crete, Greece and Epirus. I am a postage stamp collector and I am attempting to write an article on the historical and mythological connection of these stamps and also on classic art as shown by them.

I believe that the information which I desire is as above, but I do not know where to get it. I have the names of the subjects portrayed on several of them and have been able to figure out the names of the kings who had a few struck by the Greek inscriptions thereon, but all do not have these letters and none show the values as I understand it. Do you have any works on the subject of ancient Greek, Cretan and Roman coins which I could have access to? I would be willing to give a deposit on any such book which you might have if I could borrow it. Of course I would pay postage both ways and would take very good care of such a work if by any chance I could get it. If you desire a reference I can refer you to the Scott Stamp and Coin Company and I believe that they will tell you that I am alright and will return any books you might see fit to lend me.

If by chance you happen to have this information in any book which is for sale I would buy the book. I enclose a stamped and addressed envelope for return. Thanking you sincerely for your trouble, I am

Very truly yours,


Wm. Bork.

P.S. Any work in English, French or Spanish is alright, and if there is none in any of these I can manage to figure out German, though I have not gone far enough in the study of it to do much with it.

W.B.

August 22, 1927

Mr. William Berk,
111 South Mount Vernon St.,
Prescott, Arizona

Dear Sir:

Responding to yours of August 17th, I believe we could best aid you if you could send a set of the stamps of Greece about which you ask. Although, I am not a stamp collector, I was in Athens when the issue to which you refer was current and certain of the types are in all probabilities derived from Greek coins, as you state. I happen to have one of the three drachma issues which seems to be derived from a coin of Pheneus.

It is very difficult to find a book which will give you the information you desire, especially as from your letter, it seems probable that you have not had much training in archaeology or numismatics and without these the value of your commentary on the likeness of the coin types to those on the stamps risks being slight. However, we are more willing to try to help than we are to pour cold water on your plan and if you could send the set or a photograph of them to me, I could probably identify them for you and possibly be able to refer you to some volume or volumes which should be procurable in your public library at Prescott. If after I have seen the series I can refer you to a book which will answer your purposes and which you can buy, I shall, of course, do so.

Regretting the necessary delay, I am

Very truly yours,

Secretary

SPN:MB

111 South Mount Vernon Street,
Prescott, Arizona,
August 26, 1927.

The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th. and 156 Sts.,
New York City, New York.

Gentlemen:

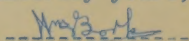
I am enclosing herewith the postage stamps to which I was referring in my letter of the seventeenth. As you will note some of them bear pictures of the coins in question and as you have suggested some of the designs are probably derived from coins. I am unfortunately quite ignorant of numismatics and archeology, but I am willing to learn all I can and I thank you for your trouble in helping me.

I do not collect the stamps of Crete which have most of the copies of coins upon them, but I have sent those which I happened to have and the others which were surcharged in Greece at the time of the 1922 revolution. I hope that the coins are not so badly obliterated by the surcharges as to make them impossible to decipher. As regards the stamps of Epirus: I have been able to make out on three of them the words "King Pyrrhus". I would like to know about all the coins illustrated on these stamps the following facts: 1. Name of king and country by which they were issued, 2. their denominations, 3. the subjects in such cases as I have not noted them beneath. The subjects as I have noted them may be wrong, as the authority from whom I obtained them is not really authoritative in every case.

I am sending a page from an old edition of the Scott Postage Stamp catalogue to illustrate the stamps which I did not have in the set. I hope that I do not cause you too much trouble and if there are charges for the service you render me I will be glad to pay them, just as I would tuition or for a book. I hope that some day I will get a chance to go into ancient art more thoroly than now and learn a lot about it as it has always been of interest to me.

I enclose stamped and addressed envelope for return registered letter and thank you again for your trouble and attention.

Sincerely yours,



Wm. Bork.

P.S. Our local library is quite limited, having only a few encyclopedias and one or two books on ancient art. Of course there is lot to be obtained in encyclopedias if you know what to look for, so I guess that I may be able to find what I need. We also have Harper's Dictionary of Antiques, if it would be a good reference. It is at present locked up in the school library, but I will be able to get it when I hear from you next time. I thought I would tell you just about what books we had so that you would know better what to refer me to.

W.B.

September 6, 1927

Mr. William Bork,
111 South Mount Vernon St.,
Prescott, Arizona

Dear Sir:

Referring to your letter of the 26th of August, I have pencilled beneath the stamps on the sheets which you sent me the identification of the coins from which the designs were drawn. Some of them have not been taken from coins and these I leave blank. Some of these names you will be able to locate in the Encyclopedia Britannica.

If your library does not have Head's "Historia Numorum," I should think they would be willing to order it for you as it is a standard work and a sort of Encyclopedia of Greek coins. This, however, would not help you very much with your mythological references. You speak of Harper's dictionary; that is rather antiquated. Doesn't your library possess a copy of Smith's "Classical Dictionary?" The Cambridge University's Press "Companion to Greek Studies" by Whibley is not very expensive and would give you much help, I believe.

If this information is of service to you, I should be very glad.

Very truly yours,

Secretary

SPN:MB
Encl..